

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

#### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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June 21, 2011

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Los Angeles 383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 500 West Temple Street Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

# **ADOPTED**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

29 June 21, 2011

SACHI A. HAMAI EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FINDINGS AND ORDERS OF THE BUILDING REHABILITATION APPEALS BOARD IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LA CRESCENTA, LANCASTER, DUARTE, REDMAN, AND SUN VILLAGE (SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5)

(3 VOTES)

#### **SUBJECT**

This action will adopt the findings and orders of the Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board pursuant to Title 26 of the Los Angeles County Code, Building Code, which provides for the arrest and abatement of neighborhood deterioration and the elimination of unsightly, unsafe, and unhealthful conditions, which constitute a public nuisance.

## IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Adopt the findings and orders of the Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board that provide for abatement of public nuisances at the following locations:

10140 East Avenue E, Redman, California 93535 10700 East Avenue E, Lancaster, California 93535 8135 West Avenue E-8, Lancaster, California 93536 13040 East Avenue R-8, Sun Village, California 93543 5230 Briggs Avenue, La Crescenta, California 91214 603 Maydee Street, Duarte, California 91010 47649 70th Street West, Lancaster, California 93536 46850 231st Street East, Lancaster, California 93535

### PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended action is to provide for abatement of public nuisances through rehabilitation procedures. Title 26 of the Los Angeles County Code, Building Code, provides for a Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board to hear appeals on matters concerning public nuisances.

## <u>Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals</u>

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provisions of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) and Community and Municipal Services (Goal 3) as it provides services to the public that have a wide-reaching positive effect on the entire community. The action will provide for the arrest and abatement of neighborhood deterioration and the elimination of unsightly, unsafe, and unhealthful conditions, which constitute a public nuisance.

#### FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no increase in net County cost or negative fiscal impact. Costs of the abatement work are billed to the property owners. Failure to pay the bill will cause a special assessment to be placed on the tax bill and a Notice of Abatement Lien will be recorded against the property with the office of the County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk.

## **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The Building Code provides for abatement of public nuisances through rehabilitation procedures contained in Chapter 99.

Government Code Section 25845 requires that the property owners be provided an opportunity to appear before your Board and be heard prior to abatement of the nuisance(s) by the County. However, your Board adopted modified procedures that delegated the required hearing to the Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board with the requirement that the Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board make a written recommendation to your Board.

The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board has conducted the required hearing for the properties listed below. The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board considered all competent evidence and testimony offered by all persons pertaining to the matters of substandard properties. The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board made a finding of facts in the matter and declared the following properties to be a public nuisance.

Your Board may either adopt these findings and orders of the Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board without further notice of hearing or may set the matter for a de novo hearing before your Board.

ADDRESS: 10140 East Avenue E, Redman, California 93535

Finding and Orders: The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board made a finding that the property is substandard, declared the property a public nuisance, and issued the following orders: (a) that by June 23, 2011, the property be cleared of all trash, junk, debris, discarded household furniture and appliances, and miscellaneous personal property, if substantial progress, extend to July 25, 2011, and maintained cleared thereafter and (b) that by June 23, 2011, the abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperable vehicle(s) be removed, if substantial progress, extend to July 25, 2011, and the property be maintained cleared thereafter.

#### List of Defects

- 1. Maintenance of premises so out of harmony and/or conformity with the maintenance standards of adjacent properties as to cause substantial diminution of the enjoyment, use, or property values of such adjacent properties.
- 2. Miscellaneous articles of personal property scattered about the premises.
- 3. Trash, junk, and debris scattered about the premises.
- 4. Inoperable vehicle(s) or parts thereof stored for unreasonable periods on the premises.

ADDRESS: 10700 East Avenue E, Lancaster, California 93535

Finding and Orders: The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board made a finding that the property is substandard, declared the property a public nuisance, and issued the following orders: (a) that by June 23, 2011, the property be cleared of all trash, junk, debris, discarded household furniture and appliances, miscellaneous personal property, and all overgrown vegetation and maintained cleared thereafter, (b) that by June 23, 2011, the accessory structure(s) be repaired per noted defects or demolished, (c) that by June 23, 2011, the main structure(s) be repaired per noted defects, and (d) that the structure(s) be maintained secured until work begins. Demolition includes the removal of all foundations, slabs, walks, driveways, debris, and the proper abandonment of any sewer or sewage disposal.

#### List of Defects

- 1. Maintenance of premises so out of harmony and/or conformity with the maintenance standards of adjacent properties as to cause substantial diminution of the enjoyment, use, or property values of such adjacent properties.
- 2. The building was open, accessible to children, vandalized, and existed as a fire hazard and a threat to public safety and welfare, until it was barricaded, as requested by the Fire Department.
- 3. Doors and windows are broken.
- 4. The nonconforming utility shed is in a state of disrepair, hazardous, and should be demolished.
- 5. The building contains uncapped waste piping.
- 6. Trash, junk, and debris scattered about the premises.

The interior of the building was not readily accessible for inspection; therefore, additional defects may be found when an interior inspection is made.

ADDRESS: 8135 West Avenue E-8, Lancaster, California 93536

Finding and Orders: The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board made a finding that the property is substandard, declared the property a public nuisance, and issued the following orders: (a) that by June 23, 2011, the property be cleared of all trash, junk, debris, discarded household furniture and appliances, and miscellaneous personal property and maintained cleared thereafter and (b) that by

June 23, 2011, the abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperable vehicle(s) be removed and the property be maintained cleared thereafter.

#### List of Defects

- 1. Maintenance of premises so out of harmony and/or conformity with the maintenance standards of adjacent properties as to cause substantial diminution of the enjoyment, use, or property values of such adjacent properties.
- 2. Overgrown vegetation and weeds constituting an unsightly appearance.
- 3. Attractive nuisances in the form of abandoned or broken equipment, neglected machinery, refrigerators, and freezers.
- 4. Broken or discarded furniture and household equipment in yard areas for unreasonable periods.
- 5. Miscellaneous articles of personal property scattered about the premises.
- 6. Trash, junk, and debris scattered about the premises.
- 7. Trailer(s), camper(s), boat(s), and other mobile equipment stored for unreasonable periods of time in yard areas contiguous to streets or highways.
- 8. Inoperable vehicle(s) or parts thereof stored for unreasonable periods on the premises.

ADDRESS: 13040 East Avenue R-8, Sun Village, California 93543

Finding and Order: The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board made a finding that the property is substandard, declared the property a public nuisance, and issued the following order: that by June 23, 2011, the property be cleared of all trash, junk, debris, discarded household furniture and appliances, and miscellaneous personal property and maintained cleared thereafter.

#### List of Defects

- 1. Maintenance of premises so out of harmony and/or conformity with the maintenance standards of adjacent properties as to cause substantial diminution of the enjoyment, use, or property values of such adjacent properties.
- 2. Miscellaneous articles of personal property scattered about the premises.
- 3. Trash, junk, and debris scattered about the premises.

ADDRESS: 5230 Briggs Avenue, La Crescenta, California 91214

Finding and Orders: The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board made a finding that the property is substandard, declared the property a public nuisance, and issued the following orders: (a) that by June 23, 2011, the property be cleared of all trash, junk, debris, discarded household furniture and appliances, miscellaneous personal property, and all overgrown vegetation and maintained cleared thereafter and (b) that the property be maintained secured to prevent unauthorized entry.

#### List of Defects

- 1. Maintenance of premises so out of harmony and/or conformity with the maintenance standards of adjacent properties as to cause substantial diminution of the enjoyment, use, or property values of such adjacent properties.
- 2. Overgrown vegetation, dead trees, and weeds constituting an unsightly appearance.
- 3. Trash, junk, and debris scattered about the premises.
- 4. Garbage cans stored in front or side yards and visible from public streets.

ADDRESS: 603 Maydee Street, Duarte, California, 91010

Finding and Order: The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board made a finding that the property is substandard, declared the property a public nuisance, and issued the following order: that by June 23, 2011, the abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperable vehicle(s) be removed and the property be maintained cleared thereafter.

#### List of Defects

- 1. Maintenance of premises so out of harmony and/or conformity with the maintenance standards of adjacent properties as to cause substantial diminution of the enjoyment, use, or property values of such adjacent properties.
- 2. Overgrown vegetation and weeds constituting an unsightly appearance.
- 3. Inoperable vehicle(s) or parts thereof stored for unreasonable periods on the premises.

ADDRESS: 47649 70th Street West, Lancaster, California, 93536

Finding and Orders: The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board made a finding that the property is substandard, declared the property a public nuisance, and issued the following orders: (a) that by June 23, 2011, the property be cleared of all trash, junk, debris, discarded household furniture and appliances, miscellaneous personal property, and all overgrown vegetation, if substantial progress, extend to July 25, 2011, and maintained cleared thereafter, (b) that by June 23, 2011, the abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperable vehicle(s) be removed, if substantial progress, extend to July 25, 2011, and the property be maintained cleared thereafter, (c) that by June 23, 2011, the accessory structure(s) be repaired per noted defects, rebuilt to Code, or demolished, if substantial progress, extend to July 25, 2011, and (d) that the structure(s) be maintained secured to prevent unauthorized entry. Demolition includes the removal of all foundations, slabs, walks, driveways, debris, and the proper abandonment of any sewer or sewage disposal.

#### List of Defects

- 1. Maintenance of premises so out of harmony and/or conformity with the maintenance standard of adjacent properties as to cause substantial diminution of the enjoyment, use, or property values of such adjacent properties.
- 2. The buildings are open and accessible to juveniles, transients, apparently abandoned, and are

a health, fire, and safety hazard to the adjacent community. The buildings or structures must be secured or closed forthwith so as to prevent unauthorized persons from gaining access thereto.\*

- 3. Doors and windows are broken on dwelling and accessory structures.
- 4. Exposed electrical conductors.
- 5. Fencing is in disrepair.
- 6. Overgrown vegetation, weeds, and debris constituting an unsightly appearance.
- 7. Attractive nuisances in the form of abandoned or broken equipment and neglected machinery.
- 8. Broken or discarded furniture and household equipment in yard areas for unreasonable periods.
- 9. Miscellaneous articles of personal property scattered about the premises.
- 10. Trash, junk, and debris scattered about the premises.
- 11. Abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperable vehicle(s) or parts thereof stored for unreasonable periods on the premises.

The interior of the buildings were not readily accessible for inspection; therefore, additional defects may be found when an interior inspection is made.

\*The following option was given to the owner

"If, in your opinion, the building or structure is sufficiently secured or closed, or for any other reason you cannot comply with Item Number 2 on this 'List of Defects,' you may request a hearing within ten days of receipt of this notice. If the required work is not performed within ten days after service of this notice and if a timely demand for a hearing is not made, the County may perform the work at the expense of the said owner."

ADDRESS: 46850 231st Street East, Lancaster, California 93535

Finding and Orders: The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board made a finding that the property is substandard, declared the property a public nuisance, and issued the following orders: (a) that by June 23, 2011, the property be cleared of all trash, junk, debris, discarded household furniture and appliances, and miscellaneous personal property and maintained cleared thereafter and (b) that the structure(s) be maintained secured to prevent unauthorized entry.

#### List of Defects

- 1. Maintenance of premises so out of harmony and/or conformity with the maintenance standards of adjacent properties as to cause substantial diminution of the enjoyment, use, or property values of such adjacent properties.
- 2. Doors and windows are broken.
- 3. Trash, junk, and debris scattered about the premises.

The interior of the building was not readily accessible for inspection; therefore, additional defects may be found when an interior inspection is made.

## **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Not applicable.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board confirmed the County Building Official's findings that the listed properties are substandard because they are injurious to health, offensive to the senses, and obstruct the free use of neighboring properties so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property.

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Department of Public Works, Building and Safety Division.

Respectfully submitted,

**GAIL FARBER** 

Director

GF:RP:nm

Chief Executive Office (Rita Robinson)
 County Counsel
 Executive Office

Hail Farher